Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PONTA 00180 182215Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 CU-02 MCT-01 SY-05 TRSE-00 /066 W
----------182236Z 070388 /62
R 181815Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1686
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSUL OPORTO
COMUSFORAZ
USCINCEUR
CINCLANT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PONTA DELGADA 0180

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJ: REACTIONS TO FLAG CRISIS

REF: PONTA DELGADA 178 (DTG 181715Z MAY 77) AND PREVIOUS

1. PRESS: ONE OF PONTA DELGADA'S DAILY NEWSPAPERS, "ACORES", WHICH GENERALLY SUPPORTS THE PSD, IN ITS MAY 18 EDITION HEADLINED, "ON THE SUNDAY OF SENHOR SANTO CRISTO AZOREAN BLOOD FLOWED AND HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IS THE ONE RESPONSIBLE". (SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IT PRAISED EANES FOR THE APRIL 25TH MESSAGE TO THE AZORES.) IN AN EDITORIAL IT NOTED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME BLOOD WAS SHED IN A DEMONSTRATION IN THE AZORES. THE REASON, A LEGITIMATE DECISION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PONTA DELGADA WAS NOT RESPECTED, CONTRARY TO LAW AND DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE. IT LABELED THE EVENTS OF THE HOLIDAY ANOTHER PROVOCATION DIRECTED TOWARDS AZOREANS, ANOTHER EPISODE IN THE LONG HISTORY OF THE FIGHT FOR A REAL AUTONOMY, THE DESIRE OF THE GREAT MAJORITY. FURTHER MORE, IT SAID IF PRESIDENT EADES
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PONTA 00180 182215Z

DID INDEED SUGGEST THE DISMISSAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF PONTA DELGADA, THAT WAS THE ATTITUDE OF A DICTATOR. THE EDITORAL ALSO NOTED THAT THERE IS A DECISION WRITTEN BY GEN. ALTINO MAGALHAES WHEN HE WAS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN THE AZORES AND PRESIDENT OF THE REGIONAL JUNTA WHICH PERMITS THE DISPLAY OF THE AZOREAN FLAG.

2. A LONG ARTICLE IN THE SAME PAPER DISCRIBED THE DETAILS OF

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

THE EVENTS OF THE SANTO CRISTO HOLIDAY INCLUDING ALMOST ALL OF WHAT MOTA AMARAL RELATED TO ME (REFTEL). ADDITIONAL DETAILS IT REPORTED ARE: MARIO SOARES ATTEMPTED TO GET THE CHURCH TO REMOVE THE AZOREAN FLAGS BUT THE BISHOP OF THE AZORES REFUSED. WHEN ORDERED BY THE PRESIDENT TO USE TROOPS TO REMOVE THE AZOREAN FLAGS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE MILITARY IN THE AZORES, GEN. BARBEITOS DE SOUSA, SAID HE WOULD DO SO ONLY IF HIS MEN ALSO TOOK DOWN THE PORTUGUESE FLAGS FLYING ALONG SIDE. ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT, EANES AND THE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC, GEN. GALVAO DE FIGUEIREDO, DISAGREED BUT WERE FINALLY FORCED TO GO ALONG WITH THE MILITARY COMMANDER. THUS, THE MILITARY PULLED DOWN BOTH THE AZOREAN AND PORTUGUESE FLAGS.

3. ADDITIONAL VIOLENCE: IN ADDITION TO VIOLENCE AT THE POLICE STATION AND THE BOMB AT THE NAVAL RADIO STATION IN PONTA DELGADA, DURING THE NIGHT OF MAY 15-16 A BOMB EXPLODED IN A CAR BELONGING TO THE ARMY COMMANDER IN TERCEIRA. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, DURING THE NIGHT OF MAY 16-17 IN PONTA DELGADA A GROUP OF YOUTHS, MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT SEPARATIST MOVEMENT (MSE), TOOK OVER A SOUND TRUCK AND BROADCAST INDEPENDENCE SLOGANS. ONE REPORT SAID THEY WERE MASKED AND ARMED. ALSO, A CAR BELONGING TO A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR WAS DISTROYED BY FIRE, APPARENTLY BY MISTAKE: THE ARSONISTS MAY HAVE MISTAKEN IT FOR A SIMILAR CAR BELONGING TO A FAR LEFTIST.

4. COMMENT: IN THE WAKE OF THE FLAG INCIDENT, THE PRESTIGE OF RAMALHO EANES, WHICH HAD BEEN GROWING RECENTLY HERE, PLUMMETTED. THE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC, WHO WAS NOT POPULAR BEFORE, WAS STRONGLY CRITICISED, BUT THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE MILITARY,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

GEN. BARBEITO DE SOUSA, HAS BEEN PRAISED FOR HIS GOOD SENSE. THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT BY REMAINING FIRM VIS-A-VIS THE GOP, RETAINED OR STRENGTHENED ITS POPULARITY. BUT THE REAL WINNERS WERE THE SEPARATISTS. REGARDLESS OF THE MOTIVATION OR INTENTION OF THOSE IN THE GOP WHO ORDERED THE REMOVAL OF THE AZOREAN FLAGS, THE EFFECT OF THEIR ACTIONS IN THE AZORES WAS TO STRENGTHEN SEPARATISM. RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, MANY AZOREANS WHO ARE NOT SEPARATISTS BLAME THE GOP, NOT FLA, FOR THE VIOLENCE DURING THE NIGHT OF MAY 15-16. THE EVENTS OF THE SANTO CRISTO HOLIDAY RAISED THE QUESTION ONCE MORE IN THE MINDS OF MANY AZOREANS, IS THE CENTRALIST TRADITION OF LISBON TOO STRONG TO PERMIT A REAL AUTONOMY?
PFEIFLE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, FLAG DISPLAY REGULATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PONTA00180
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770177-0409
Format: TEL
From: PONTA DELGADA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770544/aaaablnb.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b4cde390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PONTA DELGADA 178
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2470208
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTIONS TO FLAG CRISIS
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b4cde390-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009